

**SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**2021**

**SCARY STORY  
CONTEST**

Sponsored by the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library

## GUEST JUDGE SAM WINEMAN

I love a good scary story. Words have a way of working their way into your head and nesting there...especially when you want to forget them. Nothing is scarier than your own imagination.

Your writing conjured up images that are stuck in my head like a song. Your stories still haunt me, and for that, I say thank you. I truly loved reading your work.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES LIBRARIAN JUDY NEEB

Congratulations to all who participated in the South Pasadena Public Library's first Scary Story Contest. Every entry that was submitted was wonderful, spooky, and filled with imagination. Within these pages are tales of horror, spooky adventures, and creatures beyond anyone's imagination. Read them....if you dare...

### 2021 SCARY STORY CONTEST WINNERS

*The Last Day of the World* by Miko - 1st Grade

*Smaller* by Eleanor (Nora) - 2nd Grade

*Clomp Clomp Clomp* by August B. - 5th Grade

*Disappearance* by Alex - 12th Grade



### 2021 SCARY STORY CONTEST HONORABLE MENTIONS

*Kidnapping* by Redford - 1st Grade

*Monsters* by Leo - 1st Grade

*The Spooky Giants* by Rainer - Pre-K

*Trapped* by August J. - 6th Grade

*Nightmare Alive* by Nancy - 2nd Grade

*The Voice* by Adrienne - 4th Grade

*A Spooky "Caturday"* by Sunny - 4th Grade



*Stories were edited for grammar and content.*

**Judges for the 2021 South Pasadena Public Library Scary Story Contest:**

**Children's Librarians Anne Armacost, Cindy Finder, Judy Neeb and Guest Judge Sam Wineman**



**1100 Oxley Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030**  
**(626) 403-7358** [www.southpasadenaca.gov/children](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/children)

# THE LAST DAY OF THE WORLD

BY MIKO - 1ST GRADE

One day in the rainforest, a group of South Pasadenan kids were searching for a lost, ancient city. Airio, Menian, and Miko were the most adventurous kids in town. The lost city was known to have traps in every nook and cranny and they were ready for anything. As they approached the ruins, Airio walked by a shallow hole in the ground.

Suddenly both of his feet were stuck in a monster's jaws! The monster was starting to pull him into a deep hole! His friends tried to pull him out but the monster was too fast. Airio disappeared under the ground. Menian and Miko ran back to their van and grabbed a rope. The group of kid explorers rushed back to the hole and managed to pull Airio out with the rope...but it was too late. A dark, gloomy shadow rose above their heads.

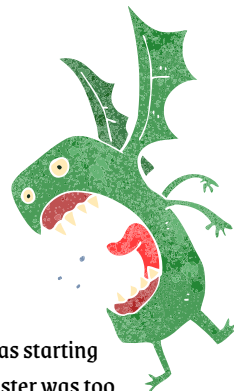
The kids looked up and saw a long, giant snake-monster with a jaw that could open wide enough to swallow a whole truck and eat a human in just one bite.

It was the monster known as the Death Burrower! It was the darkest black and was coated in poisonous scales that dripped all over. The kids felt as if the future of the world was in their hands - they had just released the baddest monster ever. The one monster that you would never want to release was now free!

The kids ran in terror but it was too late - The Death Burrower was too fast. It used its giant wings to snatch the children up in its metal-like talons.

Shink! Shank! The Death Burrower gobbled the children up and is looking for more!

There's no way to stop it ever again.



## SMALLER

BY ELEANOR (NORA) - 2ND GRADE

A little girl with her mom went camping. Her mom went to get s'mores, and that's when the little girl's brain start tingling. Then she was suddenly walking into a room quite blank and quiet.

There was a door. She opened it. Nothing. It looked like the exact same room except the room was strangely smaller.

There was another door. She opened it. Nothing again. Just smaller.

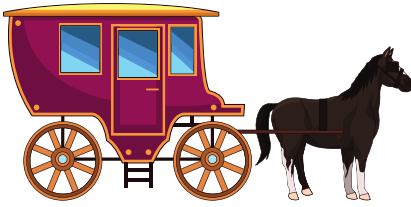
Door, after door, it kept getting smaller. Though, then she opened another door. Then she noticed that her hair was touching the ceiling, but still couldn't resist to open the next door. Still smaller. She couldn't move. Then she realized that it didn't. Just kept getting smaller each time you opened the door it was, each minute.

She screamed but no one was there.

She returned to reality, and her mom was back. She said it's quite cramped small in the tent. Her mom went outside to roast marshmallows.

The girl smiled, and left as the tent got smaller.





## **CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP**

**BY AUGUST B. - 5TH GRADE**

There was once a boy named Jared, who was a normal kid, who went with his parents to India on vacation.

But one day, Jared got lost on a cold and lonely night.

He was at the candy shop when a power outage happened, and he couldn't find his way around.

Jared went to the mall but everyone there spoke Hindi, and Jared only understood English. Finally after searching for a long time, Jared found a man driving a horse and buggy. He spoke English so that was a lifesaver. Jared stepped into the buggy and noticed that the man's eyes glowed an eerie yellow in the dark. The man spoke to him about something in Bangla.

Jared just ignored him. A few moments later, Jared heard clomping from the horse's hooves that were louder than normal. He looked up at the carriage drive and found that the hooves belonged to the driver!

Scared of never making it home, Jared jumped out of the buggy and ran away. With the man trying to call him back, Jared just kept running until he reached the corner.

He never saw the man again, but he also never forgot him.

## **DISAPPEARANCE**

**BY ALEX - 12TH GRADE**

I was saddened when I disappeared during Halloween.

I had yet to put a light in my pumpkin. Now I had to do my best to not notice how quiet the world was or how empty it felt even as I sensed eyes staring. No sound echoed as I took steps on a yellow carpet that connected to a darker yellow wall.

I could never see the eyes as I walked - not once did I ever dare to look back. So when I heard the soft thrum of something ahead or around me, I ignored it.

When I felt the urge to look back, I dismissed it. They want you to notice.

My heart sprints and my body jumps when they make sounds, even if my body and face remain still and heavy. There were never any distractions, so all that was left was my own head and the will to continue.

I was so wrapped in my own head that sometimes I thought I could hear the whining sounds of cars or chatter of people, but even as I listened, the deafening silence was louder. There were no conversations or chirping birds. With my ears and mind useless other than making me curious about things I knew I should not be curious about, I relied on colors and light.

I walked and walked and walked, watching the mildewed white roof and the panels that held lights beyond my reach. The lights sometimes twisted and coiled as did my stomach into seemingly impossible shapes. They were almost hypnotic. I had tried to touch one with my shoe, hoping to hear a sound other than feet, but it disappeared just before the shoe touched. I assumed the shoe disappeared until the light began to dim and I ran.



I never liked the dark and it seemed to continue here. I tried to avoid looking into the darkened rooms or those long halls or clearings where there were no walls. Something was always there but instinct told me to never look or get close to the center of the space and to run until I collapsed.

I remember once coming across a long hallway that stretched on without doors. I had paused before turning around and stood frozen as something was eyeing the back of my head, something a breath away. I never dared to look behind me since then, nor trust my hearing. I never dared to see the thing.

However, even though I never looked, I knew what it would look like. It would be a tall figure, taller than my height, shaped as an elk standing on its back hooves with the front limbs grotesquely stretched to the floor and eyes nothing but dots in its hollow sockets. I imagine I'll see it again one final time before I leave or before something finally catches me.

Maybe I should turn and greet it.

## HONORABLE MENTIONS

---

### KIDNAPPING

#### REDFORD - 1ST GRADE

A babysitter was sleeping, then a monster was on TV and he was kidnapping people. The babysitter wanted to stop the monster, but the babysitter did not know the monster was actually good.



She didn't know that the monster actually was kidnapping people that were trying to kidnap other people. What the monster didn't know was that the babysitter was one of those kidnappers.

So, the babysitter goes outside and tries to kidnap the monster. She has a big bag and sneaks behind the monster...but the monster is hiding a smaller bag behind them and surprises the babysitter by scooping her up in their bag first. Then the monster takes the bag to the police station and gives the kidnappers to the police officers.

## MONSTERS

### BY LEO. - 1ST GRADE

One Halloween night there was a 6 year-old boy named Max.

He was scared of ghosts and zombies.

He stayed in his house every Halloween and hid under his bed.

On this Halloween, a ghost comes and teases him and says, "He! He! He! You are soooo scared. Ha! Ha! Ha!"

Then, there was a zombie that turned the tables and bit Max.

Max turned into a zombie. Max's fingers fell down to the floor.

A werewolf came into the room and ate the fingers on the floor. There was blood everywhere!

Frankenstein also came into the room and the werewolf bit Frankenstein's arm off. Blood went everywhere again. A skeleton slipped on the blood from Frankenstein's arm. He got up and bit the arm of the werewolf but broke his tooth. Max was forever dead after this Halloween.





# THE SPOOKY GIANTS

## RAINER - PRE-K

Once there was 10 big giants.

And then one of them ate a basket full of peaches and the giants said “Mmm mmm.”

And then they started finding the ghost friends. After they got the ghost friends, the giant started printing out the little, tiny pictures of the kittens they had ate. Then the giant took the pictures of the kitten out from the printer and handed them out to the other 10 giants. All the 10 giants said, “Wow this is great.”

Then one of the giants said saxophones have five keys. He took a saxophone from his pocket and started playing it. The other 10 giants heard the music, they started throwing up their pictures into the air. When they were floating away one of the giants threw a big basketball over them and it landed on a human’s head and it bounced off the human’s head and it went “boing.” And the giant kicked the ball so hard it broke a house. Then the mom yelled “Eeek” when she was cooking and the stove fell over.

When the stove fell over, she rolled out the front steps.

The boy yelled jump and he rolled after his mom down the front steps. The dad jumped out of his desk and yelled “Eeek” and ran outside too. But then he bonked his head on the steps and rolled after the mom and the boy. The boy yelled, “No tears for the giants.”

When the ghosts saw this, they ran over to the boy and the mom and dad and spooked them. Then the human fell off the steps and landed head first into the garden. After the ghost started tickling their ears and they sneezed and sneezed. They sneezed forever.

## TRAPPED

### BY AUGUST J. - 6TH GRADE

One night, a man drove home to his mansion. He unlocked the front door, stepped inside, and turned the lights on. He then sat down on his couch, and reached for the remote. He grabbed it and pressed the power button...again...and again. Except the TV didn’t turn on.

He clicked it one final time, and the lights turned off. But the TV turned on. All the TV was showing was static. Then, the static disappeared, and a clown emerged on the screen.



The man jumped back, startled, he fell to the ground. But the clown didn’t move. It just stood there. In the darkness. The man was scared now. He ran to his kitchen, but before he got there, he stopped in his tracks. Right there in his kitchen was the same clown he had seen on TV.

He ran back into his living room, but when he looked behind him, there was no clown, or even a kitchen. It was just a blank, white wall. Then, he heard the clown’s laughter coming from the dining room, and he looked but it was a wall. The dining room had become a wall and he was trapped inside his living room. Then, he looked at the TV and the clown on the TV looked back. The clown started walking forward.

The man grasped for a window, but there were just walls and there was no escape. The clown then stepped out of the TV and got closer. The man closed his eyes hoping that it was all just a dream but it wasn’t and his funeral was held the next day.



# NIGHTMARE ALIVE

BY NANCY - 2ND GRADE

A girl called Amy invited her best friend Lucy over for a sleepover. They played with dolls, ate ice cream, and finally went to bed. Before they went to bed Amy saw a creature with red eyes and a head full of yarn. She thought it was her doll at first, but she thought to herself that she was just sleepy.

In the middle of the night she heard something break, so she got out of her bed while her friend was still asleep and crept out of the house into the backyard where she heard the noise. She saw that two of her vases were broken.

Then she saw the thing that caused it; it was the doll after all!

She ran back to bed hoping to find safety from the doll, but then she looked up and saw that three other toys were also moving around. She hopped out of bed running out of her house, and then she woke up panting. She took a second, and then she realized that her nightmare was coming alive.

She ran out of the house knowing what was going to happen. Everywhere she looked Barbies, rocking horses, and action figures were moving towards her. Soon, she was surrounded by toys. Then she woke up again and went down stairs thinking she would find the swarm of toys. Instead she saw nothing until she heard the doorbell ring and opened the door to find a swarm of toys waiting for her. This time it was real.

## THE VOICE

BY ADRIENNE - 4TH GRADE

There was this high school girl named Ella.

She was on a jog and decided to do her homework. She went inside and sat at her desk to do her homework. When she was figuring out a math problem, Ella heard knocking and her name, coming from the bathroom.

### **KNOCK KNOCK ELLA ELLA.**

Ella ignored it at first but when she heard it again, she went in the bathroom to investigate. Right when she went in the bathroom she saw blood streaks everywhere. She was frightened but Ella kept on investigating. Ella saw her name written on the shower.

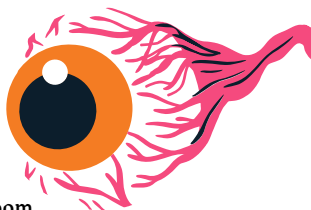
She looked inside the toilet and saw an eyeball glaring back at her. Ella screamed and ran out of the bathroom. For the next couple days, Ella did not use the bathroom.

One day her parents told her they were going on a trip for a week, starting tomorrow. That night Ella's parents heard the knocking sound too. They went in the bathroom to investigate, just like Ella did. When Ella's mom looked in the toilet, it went dark. When the lights turned back on Ella's parents were not there.

When Ella woke up, she was surprised that her parents were gone. She thought her parents went on their trip while she was sleeping. Ella went on a jog and was sweaty when she came back so she decided to take a shower.

When she was taking a shower, she heard the same knocking and her name, she heard before and it got louder and louder! Then she saw the same eyeball appear in the drain! She was so scared that she slipped and the eyeball came closer to her face.

Ella tried to get up but was pulled into the drain by a wet, slimy hand.



# A SPOOKY "CATURDAY"

## BY SUNNY - 4TH GRADE

Once upon a time, there was a mischievous black cat named Puck. He lived in the attic of a house with a family of four. The family didn't know he was there, and he liked to play tricks on them. One Saturday, Puck looked out the window and saw pretend ghosts hanging from houses.

He got an idea - he would make the family think there was a ghost in the house.

Puck built some stomping shoes to make a ghostly sound.

"What was that?" asked Papa.

"Probably just the wind," said Sister.

Brother exclaimed, "Or, was it a ghost!"

Finally, Mama said "Ghosts aren't real!" and with Mama's word, everyone was at ease.

Frustrated, Puck went to his next idea. He made a speaker and howled into it.

"What was that?" yelled Papa.

"It was just the washing machine." Mama said calmly.

Now angry, Puck went back up to the attic, knowing that it was time to bring out his biggest trick of all.

Puck spent all day working. He made a ghost puppet to convince the family it was not the wind or a washing machine. He let the puppet fly, flapping around as scary as can be.

"Help! Said Papa.

"Ahhhhh!" screamed Brother.

"Eek!" cried Sister.

But Mama wasn't scared. She grabbed the string and pulled the puppet down, along with little Puck.

He landed on the floor, covered in sheets and string. The family gathered around to see that it wasn't a ghost at all; it was a small black cat. They stared, then smiled. Puck was confused.

Papa picked him up and said "Oh, don't be silly. Let's get you cleaned up."

Mama gave Puck a nice warm bubble bath and Papa fed him. That night Puck snuggled in Mama and Papa's bed, and he became part of the family. Everyone knew that there was no ghost on this spooky "Caturday," after all... or was there?

